

If your child is classified as special ed, double check.

As Connie sees it... Page 4

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Volume 11, Number 37

Serving The Greater Metropolitan Newark Area Since 1983

June 21- June 27, 1995

INSIDE

Today's graduates face bleak tomorrow
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Science High students reach quarter-finals in Lincoln-Douglas Debates
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California governor eliminates over 100 affirmative action programs
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NJPIRG launches citizens campaign to get money out of politics

PLAINFIELD—The New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) will launch its Citizens Agenda Campaign to Get Money out of Politics as part of the organization's annual membership drive in Plainfield. NJPIRG is working with a diverse coalition of groups including United We Stand America (UWSA), Hands Across New Jersey (HANI), and Common Cause. The organizations are calling upon the legislature and the Assembly Candidates to endorse and implement the platform.

"The amount of money in New Jersey Politics is out of control," said Will May, Plainfield field manager. "Our representatives are spending more of it and getting more of it from special interests with every election." Campaign spending has increased over 85 percent in the last 10 years. In the 1993 elections, state representatives spent over \$22 million in their campaign bids and lobbyists gave over \$17 million in campaign contributions. The most expensive race in 1993 was Senator John Scott (R-Passaic) spent nearly \$400,000 or \$14.17 for every vote he received.

"As Political Action Committees (PACs) and lobbyists pour more money into the legislature New Jersey's citizens count for less and less," said May. "These reforms will help to democratize elections, involve citizens and level the playing field."

The Citizens Agenda is a five point platform to:

1. Cut campaign spending-cap spending at \$100,000 for campaign expenditures
2. Limit campaign contributions to \$100
3. Ban all gifts to public officials
4. Create an independent watchdog
5. Give citizens initiative & referendum

Campaigns will be going door to door in Plainfield, signing citizens up as members of the organization, informing them of the issues and looking for volunteers to work on a local committee for this district. Local committee members will be tracking the candidates, researching their contributors and holding volunteer trainings in this district.

The Citizens Agenda Coalition will be asking Assembly members Green & Smith and the Assembly Candidates to pledge to support/implement the platform. "We are bringing this campaign to the people so that our representatives will listen to their concerns and not the special interest money," said May.

For more information on the campaign to volunteer on the committee, citizens are encouraged to call 1-800-566-5020.

SUPREME COURT DELIVERS BLOW TO MINORITY BUSINESS

SILVER SPRING, MD.—"While yesterday's [June 12, 1995] Supreme Court decision in the Adarand case shouldn't surprise anyone, it's a punch to the solar plexus of minority businesses throughout the country," said Gregory Cambell, chairman of the National Black Business Council, Inc. (NBBC), a national advocacy organization in the interests of black businesses, and president of Cambell Consulting Group, Dallas, Tx.

"After centuries of pervasive discrimination, we simply cannot understand how you get to a level playing field overnight. Because minorities and women represent only four percent of the \$174 billion in contracts awarded by the federal government in 1994, NBBC thinks that it is premature and the Court's split decision affirms that."

"The application of 'strict scrutiny' to the future of business opportunity programs should serve as a reminder to the minority business community that our work should be increasingly vigilant as we develop constructive alternative policies that continue to improve the minority business contribution to the U.S. economy," Cambell adds.



The NBBC was responding to the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision that weakens one of the most powerful federal remedies for discriminated affirmative action. The Court ruled that for any program to withstand constitutional muster it must contain "narrowly tailored measures that further compels governmental interests."

"There is no question that some minority firms have become very successful in spite of the undue obstacles they've had to face. It is a fact that some minority firms are among the fastest growing in the country and couldn't be regarded as disadvantaged, but the Supreme Court has used too broad a brush to place minority businesses—disadvantaged and successful alike—on the same court with all other businesses," Cambell added.

By applying the abstract concept of "strict scrutiny" to federal affirmative action programs to address centuries of racial discrimination, the decision is likely to affect African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans and women for quite

See BLOW/page 8

COMMENTARY

Adarand contractors v. Pena

by Courtney M. Billups

GAITHERSBURG, MD—The Supreme Court, not surprisingly, vacated and remanded the Tenth Circuit's opinion in the case of Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña, No. 93-1841, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, just six years after distinguishing federal race-conscious programs from state and local programs in the decision of the Court of Richmond v. Croson, stated in her Adarand opinion that the Court in the Croson decision did not evaluate the standard to be used pursuant to a Fifth Amendment equal protection analysis.

Although this statement may be somewhat accurate, Justice O'Connor did in fact state in her Croson opinion that the standard to be applied to state and local programs should not be the same as the standard to be applied to programs enacted by our national legislators.

To suggest that preferences granted based on being a member of a historically disadvantaged group are so pervasive and burdensome that their impact upon non-minorities has created a constitutionally intolerable remedy...is factually insupportable.

In the Croson decision, Justice O'Connor held that with respect to state and local programs, the states are specifically constrained by section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to discriminate based on race, therefore, the constitution requires a "strict scrutiny" protection analysis force-based measures enacted to remedy past discrimination.

However, Justice O'Connor clearly articulated that section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment empowers the Congress of the United States to enforce the Fourteenth Amendment which constitutionally places the ability to promulgate race-conscious measures in order to remedy past and present discrimination in a different category for the federal government.

Surely in the last six years since the Croson decision the constitution has not changed, and further, the facts demonstrate that racial animus and incidents of racial discrimination have

not subsided in our society. What has obviously changed is the make-up of the federal judiciary and the fact that the policy is playing a major role in federal judicial system's decisions. Despite its mandate to be as insular as practicable in order to ensure a fair judicial process.

Many will argue that the civil rights movement, the ERA and the like also influenced the courts and their decision-making, however, what is different is that there was little doubt as to the extent of racial discrimination in our society, as well as voluminous testimony, reports and commissions documenting the pervasiveness of racial discrimination in every facet of American society.

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments and subsequent legislation at the federal, state and local levels were specifically ratified and enacted in order to combat years of institutionalized, state-sponsored racial discrimination which has had a lasting impact and clearly has helped foster an overwhelming disparity in access to capital, public contracting opportunities and employment opportunities even with modest race-conscious remedial initiatives.

To suggest that preferences granted based on being a member of a

historically disadvantaged group are so pervasive and burdensome that their impact upon non-minorities has created a constitutionally intolerable remedy in light of the recognized and well documented disparities for minorities solely because of their race, is factually insupportable.

For over four hundred years race was used to deny equal opportunity for minorities and women. If this decision stands for the premise that these days are now over, and we in fact live in a colorblind society where merit will win out over the old buddy system, that proposition may shortly be factually insupportable as well. The fact is that race, not merit, nor qualifications or capabilities has caused the inequities in opportunities for minorities and women.

Although I applaud non-minorities who support this decision and pledge that the days of making decisions based on race are over, however history, flagrant violations of civil rights and the active and passive participation of government in perpetuating private marketplace discrimination in fact compelled such programs so that as a society, we would reach a point at which preference programs based on historical disadvantage are

See ADARAND/page 8

NPCBW to plot next move on gangsta rap

by Chester A. Higgins, Sr.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc., who nearly two years ago launched the "war" against gangsta rap and its obscenely misogynous and murderous lyrics that target black women, is convening in Seattle, Wash., July 5-9, celebrating its 10th year of existence. This year's theme is "Revitalizing Our Community Through Political and Economic Parity."

The 1995 biennial convention will not be an occasion for self-congratulatory back-slapping, even though the organization has made notable progress in its battle to force the mega entertainment giant Time-Warner, Inc. to take a second look at what it is doing in its production and worldwide distribution of music by rap artists.

The convention will consider "the next steps we will take in the right to stop sales of this obscene music," said Dr. C. Delores Tucker, chair of NPCBW, who led a noisy picket line in front of Time-Warner, Inc.'s Rockefeller Plaza headquarters, where the annual stockholders meeting was in progress.

She insisted she was not advocating censorship and kept reminding the press that black women of the NPCBW

were attacking "violence and slime" and going to jail in protest of the music long before Senate Majority Leader and Presidential candidate Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and Bennett joined the crusade.

On a recent telecast of ABC-TV's *Good Morning America*, Dr. Tucker impatiently shrugged off conciliatory statements of Larry Robinson, African-American president of Avitar Records that "rap music expresses the reality of the ghetto." He admitted he would not sell it, however.

"Most black people are hardworking—women get up early in the morning to take their children to school, ride two or three buses to work three or four jobs to provide for their families. That's the reality of the ghetto," Dr. Tucker said. "What other people would stand by and let their artists call their grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunts—womenfolk, b...h...s and s...t" she asked repeatedly.

In a perspective piece in *Time Magazine*, writer Stanley Crouch put it succinctly: "We don't know how often the word n...g...r...s and b...s have been recorded in gangsta rap, but we can be comfortably sure that no rap group will ever be signed and promoted if it uses the word 'kike' as frequently

nor should it be. What we need is the sage sense of responsibility and dire consequences that we bring to the issue of anti-Semitism," he said.

In the meantime, the NPCBW convention promises to be a lively one. Stated for appearances on panels, workshops and/or in public address appearances, are some of the nation's most powerful and celebrated black women including:

- U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun (D-Ill.) former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders;
- NAACP Chair Myrlie Evers-Williams;
- Dr. Beryl Shabazz, Malcolm X's widow and college administrator;
- stellar songbirds Dionne Warwick and Melba Moore, who co-chair the organization's entertainment committee (this committee launched the war against gangsta rap two years ago); Hon. Lois DeBerry, speaker Pro Tempore Tennessee House of Representatives;
- California Sen. Diane Watson and many others, who had not been officially certified at press time.

Outstanding male participation is

also expected in the persons of Norman Reed, Seattle's first African-American mayor; Gov. Mike Lowry of the State of Washington; the Honorable Gary Locke, Seattle King County Executive, and the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, president of the Rainbow Coalition.

Dr. C. Delores Tucker

Dr. C. Delores Tucker is also expected in the persons of Norman Reed, Seattle's first African-American mayor; Gov. Mike Lowry of the State of Washington; the Honorable Gary Locke, Seattle King County Executive, and the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, president of the Rainbow Coalition.

Governor snubs black ministers

ORANGE—The Black Minister's Council of New Jersey recently questioned the commitment of the Whitman administration's "Many Faces - One Family" Diversity initiative.

"We are absolutely insulted and offended that so-called summit on diversity could be held by the governor and the black clergy not be invited to participate," said the Rev. Caleb Oates, president of the Council.

"Who speaks to more blacks in this state on a weekly basis than the black preacher?" he asked. "We preach and teach our community about morals, values, brotherhood, forgiveness, tolerance and everything else that promotes diversity," Oates said.

The Governor's Leadership Summit on Diversity was held May 24 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick. More than 600 leaders from business, education, religion, government and the media were invited to attend and participate in the summit. Sponsoring the summit which focused on "examining the roles of leaders in advancing diversity," along with the state was the National Conference and the Partnership For New Jersey.

"I cannot possibly conceive of having a summit on diversity and black clergy not being included," said the Rev. Reginald T. Jackson, chairman of the Political Action Committee and pastor of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church, in Orange.

What makes this so frustrating is that the single black clergyman in the entire state was invited. This cannot be an accident or oversight, this appears deliberate and somebody owes the black clergy this state explanation as to why we were not invited or included," Jackson said.

According to Jackson, the list of people invited showed that the participants themselves were not diverse. "The newspapers were invited as representing leaders from various segments, yet there were no Muslims, clergy or rabbi's invited. In addition it included the media but the black newspapers were not invited. Not the *City News*, *The Connection*, *Cablevision* or other media were on the list. How can we take this diversity initiative seriously, when the summit is so serious about who is involved?" Jackson asked.

Many black clergy around the state believe that Whitman is getting poor advice, and they question who is advising her on efforts to reach out to the black community.

"Whoever is advising her is failing her and putting up unnecessary obstacles to help us," Oates said. "Every other month it seems to be something, we would like to have normal relations with the governor where we discuss issues without controversy. In 16 months we've had a committee meeting with the governor and that's our fault as much as hers," he said.

Jackson was not calmed by the fact that the New Jersey Council of Churches and the Metropolitan Economic Ministry had representatives invited, noting that the State Chamber of Commerce was invited as well as businesses that make up the chamber and that the director of MEM is a layperson and the Council of Churches is not predominantly black.

"I'm not even sure if the black clergy or black media would want to participate now. How do you feel welcome and comfortable at a diversity conference knowing you're there only because you had to point out that you were snubbed? It's like inviting yourself to a wedding and just questioning why you're at the reception," Jackson concluded.

PEOPLE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

REGISTER NOW—For Paramount Hotel Vacation in the Catskills given by the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center in Plainfield. For more info call 201-656-7651 or 7496.

THRU JUNE 25
MONTCLAIR—"Lost in Yonkers" at Montclair State University. For more info call 201-656-7651 or 7496.

THRU JULY 8
MONTCLAIR—"Private Art Public Art: Photographs from the Collections of Citibank and Johnson & Johnson" at The Montclair Art Museum. For more info call 201-748-5555.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
EAST ORANGE—Syrta's 4th annual "Drug, Near the victims story" at East Orange High School at 4:15 p.m. For more info call 201-673-2193.

NEWARK—"Brotherman: The Odyssey of Black Men in America" at the Newark Public Library at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 201-733-5411.

SOUTH ORANGE—"Building Your Family Through Infant Adoption" forum at the Board Community Center at 7 p.m. For more info call 212-369-0300.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22
NEW YORK—Tavern Museums lunch time series "Popular Myths about Ellis Island" at 12:30 p.m. For more info call 212-425-1778.

JUNE 22 THRU JULY 9
EAST RUTHERFORD—Meadowlands Fair at Giants Stadium. Hours vary call 201-935-3900.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23
WESTFIELD—Trip to Baltimore Inner Harbor. For more info call the Rutgers

Cooperative Extension at 908-654-0854.

TUNE IN—"The Language of Life With Bill Moyers" a new eight-part series premiering from 9 p.m.-11 p.m. on PBS. Bill Moyers (center front) talks with poets Sakai Sundatia (l), Naomi Shihab Nye, and Coleman Barks (r) about their work, lives and creativity.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24
NEWARK—"A Salute To Historic Black Women" workshop at 1 p.m. at the Newark Public Library. For more info call 201-646-1187.

MOUNTAINVIEW—"Fourteenth Annual Bethune Birthday Awards Luncheon and Fashion Show" in honor of Mary McLeod Bethune at 11:00 a.m. at 22 East. For more info call 908-737-1025.

NEWARK—Delta Teen Recognition Breakfast at the Holiday Inn on Frontage Road, 78 East-Exit 58B. For more info call Beverly Evans at 201-375-8933.

SAVERVILLE—Antique fire truck show at Middex County Fire Academy from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 908-462-7445.

NEWARK—Register for the "Black History Educational Film Lecture Series," taking place at Rutgers University, at the Newark Public Library at 1 p.m. For more info call 201-678-6522.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27
EAST RUTHERFORD—100 Black Men's annual overview of accomplishments and goals for the future meeting at the Winners Club of the NJ Meadowlands from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. For more info call 201-678-6522.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28
MOUNTAINVIEW—Banjo Ragtime

Street renamed in honor of Ernest Howard



Mayor Robert Brown unveils the street sign for Ernest Howard Blvd.
Photo courtesy of Orange City Hall

Tina Baldwin named Employee of the Month



ORANGE—Robert L. Brown, mayor of the city of Orange recently memorialized Central Avenue, after the late Ernest Howard owner of Peppermint Lounge-Entertainment Complex. The new name for the Avenue is now Ernie Howard Boulevard.

The only black independently owned thriving nightclub and restaurant in New Jersey, the Peppermint has remained the core for jazz, soul and rhythm and blues bands in the tri-state area. It has served as a starting point for many famous entertainers who hailed from the New Jersey area.

"Ernie Howard Boulevard stands as an example of a man who had the conviction and the courage to fulfill his dreams through resourcefulness and intellect. He was a pioneer in the entertainment business and a man who had compassion for the issues affecting young people and senior citizens in Orange," said Brown.

Ernest Howard died on April 8, 1995. He was born in Autaugaville, AL and came to New Jersey in the 1940s. He was a successful entrepreneur with many business ventures including Scott's Manor a banquet facility, WNJR Radio Broadcasting Corporation and the Green Taxi Cab Inc.

Tina Baldwin of Newark has been named Employee of the Month at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Baldwin, who works in the medical center's Department of Environmental Services, has been a medical center employee for one year.

Did You Know?

by Robert M. Taylor

... that everyone has the same amount of time—86,400 seconds each day. Thus the problem is not one of not having enough time, it is a matter of not over-committing yourself and better organizing your daily allotment of 86,400 seconds.

... that despite all the focus on health, there are strong genetic and mental factors determining how long a person lives. Research shows that long life runs in certain families suggesting that some people will live longer than average regardless of how well they take care of themselves. Further, there is strong evidence that the better a person handles stress, the longer he or she is likely to live.

... that according to the National Highway Safety Administration, two-thirds of American drivers buckle up when they drive. The Transportation Department estimates that seat belts save more than 5,000 lives a year.

... that motivational expert Stu Kamen suggests that you turn negatives into positives by starting each day with a set of positive thoughts. He says take 10 to 15 minutes at the beginning of each day to simply generate constructive energy by deep breathing and thinking only about positive things.

... that according to *Corporate Travel* magazine, the most expensive city for business travelers is (you guessed it) New York City (\$328 a day), followed by Washington, D.C. (\$288), Chicago (\$254), Boston (\$253) and Philadelphia (\$231). By the way, the cheapest cities for business travel are Las Vegas, Chattanooga and Jackson, Miss.

... that this week's favorite quote comes from the booklet *A Father's Book of Wisdom*: "Happiness is not an absence of problems; but the ability to deal with them."

Rutgers honors campus police and security guards



Security Guard Neil Miller

NEWARK—Security Guard Neil Miller of Newark, was honored by Rutgers for exceptional on-the-job performance. Miller alerted Rutgers-Newark Police to juveniles he witnessed breaking into autos. Retiring Officer Raymond Goodall of Newark was also honored.

ESSENCE and Toyota toast Barbara Smith



NEW YORK—ESSENCE and Toyota recently hosted a book signing at B. Smith's Restaurant in New York's Theater District. Restaurant owner and former five-time ESSENCE cover model Barbara Smith autographed copies of B. Smith's *Entertaining and Cooking for Friends*, at the first introduction of this book in North America. Welcoming Ms. Smith (second from right) at the book signing were: Mr. Ed Lewis, chief executive of Essence Communications, Inc. and publisher of ESSENCE Magazine (l); Mr. Clarence O. Smith, president, Essence Communications Inc. (r); Ms. Susan L. Taylor, editor-in-chief of ESSENCE; and William E. Paul, national manager, Corporate Philanthropy, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

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*Certain restrictions may apply. Consult membership staff for Young Adult & Physical membership details.

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NATION

National News
at a glanceCALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR
ELIMINATES OVER 100
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
PROGRAMS

Prior to last week's Supreme Court ruling making it much more difficult to justify the existence of affirmative action programs, California Gov. Pete Wilson started the anti-affirmative action ball rolling with an executive order which eliminated dozens of affirmative action programs in his state. Wilson simply struck down any program which had not been written into law. His action meant that 118 boards and commissions which had been established to insure better treatment for minorities and women in the awarding of state jobs, contracts and scholarships were struck down. Wilson is running for the Republican Party presidential nomination.

—LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

STUDY SAYS GOP
PLANS WILL WIDEN
RICH-POOR GAP

"The poor are being asked to bear a large share of the burden of this economic program... at a time when economic forces are already running against them." Those were the words last week of Urban Institute spokesperson Isabel Sawhill referring to the Republican tax and spending cuts currently making their way through Congress. It is the view of Sawhill and an apparent majority of economic analysts that the Republican budget plans will have the effect of making the poor poorer and the rich richer. If the plans become law, they will take effect at a time when a host of non-government economic factors are already making life increasingly difficult for the poor. The Republican plans will make that situation worse because disproportionately the tax cuts will benefit "upper-income Americans, while cuts in government programs will most adversely affect those with lower incomes."

—WASHINGTON, D.C.

BLACK WEALTH
CONFERENCE SET FOR
LOUISIANA

A day-long series of seminars and workshops designed to show African Americans how to build personal and family wealth will take place in Lafayette, La., on Saturday, June 24. The wealth building conference is being conducted by the Better Life Club of America - a Washington, D.C. based financial self-group which devotes income enhancement programs and projects. Conference topics will range from starting home-based businesses to investing and from repairing negative credit to making profits in the 900-number business. Financial planning and debt reduction experts will also be present. Interested persons can get registration information by calling Gwen or Bernell Nora at 318-229-4100 or 1-800-748-1821. —LAFAYETTE, LA.

AIDS CASES RISE
SHARPLY AMONG
BLACK HOMOSEXUALS

Officials at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention are reporting a dramatic rise in the number of AIDS cases among black male homosexuals. During the first half of 1994, there was a 79 percent increase in AIDS cases among black gay males as compared to the same period in 1989. The rate of increase among white male homosexuals was only 14 percent. There was also a dramatic rise among Hispanic gay males of 61 percent. Despite an increased spread of the deadly disease into the general population, approximately 30 percent of all Americans afflicted with the deadly HIV virus fall into two groups; homosexual males and intravenous drug users. The CDC also found that in recent years AIDS infection has begun to spread faster in small towns and rural communities.

—ATLANTA, GA.

SOUTH AFRICA
ABOLISHES THE
DEATH PENALTY

While the U.S. is moving toward establishing an even larger number

See NEWS/page 10

Black mayors representing millions

MEMPHIS—The election of 382 black mayors nationwide has helped to create a new and unprecedented potential for African Americans to organize and influence political forces in the U.S., according to Dr. Robert B. Ingram, mayor of Opa-Locka, Fla., and president of the National Conference of Black Mayors.

"With 382 black mayors, we represent more than 20 million Americans," Dr. Ingram said. "In addition, the office of mayor makes most of us the 'scouts and the point men and women' on the front lines of our struggle to solve the problems of our communities."

Speaking during the recent 21st Annual Convention of the conference's national convention, Dr. Ingram noted, "these steadily increasing numbers of black mayors demonstrate our gains, of course, but they also show our capacity to mobilize our considerable political power nationally."

"Our political maturity is growing and our political consciousness is on the rise as well. We are succeeding in achieving unprecedented consensus on the broad issues African Americans ought to be concerned about as we close the 20th century and move into the 21st."

He observed that many blacks, fearful that it was not possible to mount a meaningful fight against racism, had been asleep and afraid to try.

"We are now awake and ready to join the battle with a full court press. We now have a people in place and we will make a difference in local, state and in national politics. We are focused and our numbers should give us far greater clout than we have ever



Dr. Robert B. Ingram, center, president of the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCMB) and mayor of Opa-Locka, Fla., congratulates Loretta T. Avent, left, deputy assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House, on receiving the NCMB's "President's Award." Looking on is Mark V. Monteverdi, manager, Public Programs, Philip Morris Companies Inc. Philip Morris sponsored the convention's "Tribute to a Black American" Dinner. Ms. Avent, who provides a liaison between the White House and President Clinton, was one of five women to receive the prestigious award during NCMB's 21st Annual Convention in Memphis, Tenn.

had before."

The conference president, describing a conference move last year to stay abreast of conditions in both urban centers and small towns, conferred with President Clinton in Washington, D.C. That meeting led to the formation of the White House/National Conference of Black Mayors (NCMB) Task Force, headed by HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

"We have watched the conference grow in numbers and in effectiveness during the last two decades, and it has been a source of pride and admiration for other organizations," said Mark V. Monteverdi, manager, Public Programs, Philip Morris Companies Inc.

Representing one of the oldest,

corporate supporters of the conference, Monteverdi said "the group's growth and its accomplishments show a generation of young African Americans that hard work, perseverance and preparation do pay off."

Dr. Ingram, who holds a Ph.D. in Behavioral Science from the Union of Experimental Colleges and Universities in Cincinnati, Ohio, was elected the ninth president of the NCMB last year. Earlier he served 21 years as a police officer for the city of Miami. He retired with the rank of lieutenant before becoming Chief of Police for Opa-Locka from 1980 to 1985.

The National Conference of Black Mayors was founded in 1974 by Atty. A. J. Cooper, then the mayor of Prichard, Ala. at a time when there

See BLACK MAYORS/page 6

Senator Rice pushes bill to
register purchase of
ammunition for fire arms

NEWARK—State Sen. Ronald Rice is introducing a bill at the next meeting of the State Senate which would require firearm dealers to register and keep records of each firearm ammunition sale they make in New Jersey.

While this law would not alleviate gun crimes, it would prevent the purchase of bullets with no questions asked and serve to deter many who might purchase ammo for illegal purposes, said the senator.

Additionally, the bill would re-

quire specific identification and a registered notation on the type of document presented. A purchaser of bullets could use such identification items as a valid driver's license; an identification card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles; a firearms purchaser I.D. card; a certified copy of handgun purchase permit; a valid hunting license or other specific documents authorized by the state police superintendent. And, to certify information provided, each buyer must sign for the purchase.

New guide helps homeowners
claim and recover refunds

WASHINGTON, DC—New regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), that took effect May 24, will affect 30 million escrow accounts on homes across America.

Richard Roll, president of the American Homeowners Association (AHA), a national not-for-profit, consumer group based in metropolitan Washington, DC, announced the publication of a new Escrow Refund Guide to help homeowners understand and recover moneys due to them under the new HUD rules.

"Don't just assume that with the new rules in effect, the payment your bank is asking you to make is the correct payment," said Roll.

According to HUD, the new rules will entitle most homeowners to refunds of \$250 or more and will also make it easier for new homeowners to meet required up-front settlement and mortgage costs.

One new rule states that lenders must now place all escrow fees into one account. The aggregate accounting method reduces the monthly

payment a homeowner must pay and the amount a lender can hold in reserve.

Another provision in the new regulations limits the cushion amount lenders can hold in reserve. Many standard mortgage contracts call for either a one-month escrow cushion, or no cushion at all.

A provision in the Real Estate Settlement and Procedures Act (RESPA) of 1974, called for unspecified contracts to have a maximum cushion of two months. However, many lenders interpreted the two-month cushion as a minimum instead of a maximum. New York State Assistant Attorney General Mel Goldberg estimates that this new provision alone could throw off an additional \$3.5 billion in credits and refunds to homeowners.

To receive your copy of the Escrow Refund Guide send \$4.50 (to cover postage and handling) to the American Homeowners Association, Member Services Center, 2121 Precinct Line Road, Suite 3000, Hurst, TX 76054. Or call 1-800-470-2AHA.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Adarand—in your face reality

Obviously, the Supreme Court knows something that the average black business person doesn't—that blacks were all of a sudden being treated fairly in their receiving their share of government contracts. Or maybe the justices are truly blind to the injustice and unequal treatment of blacks when it comes to government contracts. As one author wrote, "conditions have not changed only the politics of justice has switched from a Court that attempted to right critical wrongs that have transpired in centuries to one returning to the days of barbarian triumph of which to the victor goes the spoils"—all of it.

White men have proven beyond a shadow of doubt that they will stop at nothing for control and power. For just the casual observer, starting with Reagan right down to Newt, we have seen this country return to lawless practices of shooting down programs for innocent children, quality education, and civil rights.

It is a new day. The only way to combat this onslaught is through economic and political activism. The economic solution deals with blacks once again participating in the development of businesses and consciously supporting those businesses. Everyone should be accountable for raising the standard of business in their communities. Political activism is simply voting for representatives that truly represent the needs of the black community. The handwriting is now off the wall and in your face.

Republican choices distort principles of shared sacrifices

by Senator Bill Bradley

"Two years ago, I urged President Clinton to put on each legislator's desk the vote of that legislator's legislative President Clinton's 1993 budget package cut the deficit by \$500 billion and set us on course for much bolder action. But it was not the vote of a lifetime, and while I voted for it, I was disappointed.

Today, we are considering a plan to balance the federal budget by the year 2002. A laudable goal and an achievement worth recognizing.

Unfortunately, this budget is not the balanced budget that we have been waiting for. For while its priorities may be in balance, its priorities are way off balance.

Budget deliberations often get bogged down in numbers and programs. But budgets are not abstractions. They are about real people and real priorities. The tough choices we must make are not unlike the tough choices working families must make every day. Do they buy a car instead of a college education? Do they buy new clothes for their children instead of a new refrigerator?

The Republicans' choices distort the principle of shared sacrifice. They are about real people and real priorities. The tough choices we must make are not unlike the tough choices working families must make every day. Do they buy a car instead of a college education? Do they buy new clothes for their children instead of a new refrigerator?

phrase their assault on Medicare, it's just that—an assault. Their cuts will force millions of seniors to suffer drastically reduced benefits, a much lower quality of care, and much higher medical bills. We desperately need Medicare reform, but we cannot simply let seniors free-fall until these reforms take place.

Not only do the Republicans cut those programs affecting those most vulnerable in our society, they choose to ignore an important source of potential savings.

The Republicans have chosen to keep intact corporate loopholes and loopholes for the very wealthy therefore making it strikingly clear whose side they are on. Cuts in these loopholes could easily offset cuts in Medicare benefits, student loans or tax increases on the working poor.

I am pleased that the Republicans have chosen to join the fight to eliminate the federal deficit. I disagree strongly, however, with how they have chosen to get there. I remain deeply concerned that they have made the wrong choices and reflect special interests in their priorities.

I remain committed to changing the way that this government works, to reducing the deficit and to balancing the federal budget. I recognize that in order to achieve that goal we all must make hard choices, provide strong and consistent leadership and make the tough decisions that are necessary."

No matter how the Republicans

by Connie Woodruff

It appears the only happy camper in Newark and surrounding communities this summer will be the Fresh Air Camp kids who can't wait for school to be out to make their annual getaway.

June 22 will be the day former Newark councilman Ralph Grant, Jr. will be sentenced. He will be alone when he learns his fate. The man convicted with him, former councilman Gary Harris won't learn his fate until July 6.

This week's administrators, teachers, students and parents had one more opportunity to speak for or against state control of Newark schools where officials charge children are, "not getting the thorough and efficient" education promised them by state law.

When the State Board of Education meets July 6, they are expected to uphold Commissioner Leo Ribicoff's recommendation for the state to run the system under a new

set of rules and with changes in top administrators and an advisory board replacing the Board of Education.

Most people in Newark secretly welcome the change. These are the parents who resent children assigned to special education classes. There is plenty of evidence so-called special ed kids are badly misdiagnosed. I am personally involved with one of these children who finally was admitted to Science High because of intervention of an influential community member. This same child graduated, passed the SAT with a fairly high score and is now a senior at Keen College.

The pity is she never learned she was classified special ed until she was admitted to college. Her sheer determination to pursue a college degree has kept her in the main-stream but the worries about her past record maintained the popular catchphrase coined by a few progressive Republican leaders to convey to minorities the party's alleged interest in recruiting and parading them.

Enjoying premier status among Republican bigots is our late former President, Richard M. Nixon. Disclosures from the infamous Watergate tapes revealed repeated instances in

or nine years old may not have been up to par as the result of moving from one system to another. But Newark never re-evaluated her.

Newark has been governed by appointed and elected members of Boards of Education. In retrospect, boards appointed by the mayor were significantly more accountable than those more anonymous by virtue of election to the position.

Well, the days of wine and roses are almost over for the current Board of Education that leaves a lot to be desired. Since the first elected board a decade ago, politicians have had a struggle hold on certain board members.

This has enabled these "public servants" to build little fiefdoms, squander money on trips to exotic places, protect inept administrators and teachers, curry favors for jobs and promotions and do little to improve an academic environment and learning process for children.

Teachers who wanted to remain in certain schools dared not speak out

preferring to fight frustration. They were also afraid of rocking the boat by complaining to the Newark Teachers' Union. They remained union members because it is a job requirement.

Cities like Newark, Paterson, Elizabeth, Trenton, Camden and Atlantic City need the community colleges in and nearby. It has become and mission with the two-year higher education institutions to give many students the basic education needed to move up the academic ladder.

It is shameful that community college professors are required to teach basic math, English, reading a science to high school graduates because students were victims of mismanagement in elementary and high school.

Few workers, except those in the lower paying jobs that require no special skills, work with their hands these days. In the real world of work, word processors and computers are a natural extension of one's hands. And

See AS I SEE/page 10

The Republican Party's politics of exclusion

by Julian K. Robinson



I cannot escape the strong feeling that bigotry and racism are far more rampant than we spread among white Republicans than among their Democratic counterparts.

Perhaps white Republicans have had far less contact with African Americans and Hispanics and accordingly, wind up rather culturally naive and totally insensitive to a full range of terms, expressions and behavior that wound and inflame.

Perhaps, on the other hand, most Republican leaders simply do not care whether their comments and actions are offensive to certain

groups. They may be quite content with a predominantly white suburban middle class party membership and structure.

In any event, my recollections include at least a dozen instances in the last two decades in which prominent Republicans, locally and nationally, have publicly, and often privately, demeaned specific cultural and ethnic traditions. The gross irony of this circumstance is that during this same period, "the politics of inclusion" became the popular catchphrase coined by a few progressive Republican leaders to convey to minorities the party's alleged interest in recruiting and parading them.

Enjoying premier status among Republican bigots is our late former President, Richard M. Nixon. Disclosures from the infamous Watergate tapes revealed repeated instances in

which Nixon's Oval Office conversation included crude anti-black and anti-Jewish humor. In like fashion, Nixon's Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz, referring to African Americans as "coloreds," hit the headlines in 1976 because of his extremely racist smutty jokes. Public pressure ultimately forced Butz to resign during the subsequent Ford administration.

After the relative calm of the Democratic administration of President Jimmy Carter, the next serious verbal blunders occurred during the first administration of Republican Ronald Reagan, again at the cabinet level. Reagan's Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, resigned in 1983, bowing to a Senate resolution calling for his ouster. Watt's public relations problems arose from a series of thoughtless public statements by him regarding blacks, Jews, women, Native Americans, liberals

and the physically handicapped.

Thereafter, the litany of Republican transgressions in the area of domestic human relations included the following:

Other Republican Party's blatantly racist "Willie Horton" TV ad in support of George Bush's 1988 presidential campaign. In 1993 gubernatorial candidate Christie Whitman hired the creator of the offensive ad as a member of her campaign staff, until public protest from the African American community compelled her to dismiss him.

Republican strategist Ed Rollins' bombastic statement that during the '93 Whitman campaign black ministers were paid by him to suppress the black vote.

Governor Whitman's slight to New Jersey's Latino community by not including that group in the an-

See EXCLUSION/page 6

PASTOR'S WORD

Today's graduates face bleak tomorrow

by Rev. Reginald Jackson & Raiford Wheeler

This week many high schools in this metropolitan area have had or will have their graduations. Students will be ecstatic because they will have completed 12 years of preparation and learning. Parents, other family members and friends will gather to attend ceremonies and see their child, relatives or friend walk across the platform and receive their diploma. It will be a happy day.

Graduations not only mark an end but also a beginning for each of these graduates, the day after will mark a new beginning. Some will go on to college to further their

education and others will seek a vocation or some a job.

But whatever they do, whether they go to college or straight to work, they are all in for a cultural shock. For most of their lives they have been shielded or protected from the harsh reality, but no longer. Beginning the day after graduation, they will have to face some things they have not had to face. It is our prayer and hope that they are ready for it.

There is hope that students in the Orange and East Orange school districts are prepared to meet the challenge. Orange became the only urban district in the country to be fully certified at Level T and East Orange appears to be not too far behind. It is expected that they will be certified soon.

Irvington has many major concerns that need to be addressed, especially the problem of violence in the schools.

Newark is of special concern. The largest school system in the state is going through the state teacher process and student performance has been poor. But despite all of its problems, Newark has some top teachers and school administrators who have been unfairly stigmatized by the myriad of problems with the Board and top administrators. Also many of its students have been underestimated. Test scores are not the only measure of learning or ability. Many of them despite dire predictions will make it because of their own talents and resourcefulness.

Yet despite all of the best instruc-

tion and efforts, these graduates are going to face a rude awakening. They are going to discover that the real world is a lot different than the classroom. Many of them do not read the newspaper, look at the news or are aware of what is going on around them. But they will soon become aware.

Those who are going to college will see not only cutbacks in college loans but changes in terms of how to repay them. The cost of going to college is increasing and opportunity is decreasing. In addition, attempts are being made to do away with all minority scholarship programs reserved for minorities at public colleges, which is will in turn decrease the

See BLEAK/page 6

Quote of the week

The Supreme Court has surrendered...It has destroyed the Civil Rights Bill, and converted the Republican party into a party of money rather than a party of morals.—Frederick Douglass, 1894

Taken from the book *Famous Black Quotations*

CITY NEWS

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Affirmative action and the Clinton presidency

by Askia Muhammad

It may be heresy on my part, but I am at last convinced that there is indeed a "new reality" regarding black people in effect in American politics. Therefore, a radically new strategy and radically new tactics are required to produce a satisfactory outcome from the black perspective.

What convinced me was not the recent Supreme Court decisions nullifying most "race-based" solutions to past discrimination problems—those acts were to be expected, with the 1994 Republican congressional and senatorial sweep. However, the most conservative elements in this country did take firm (if not final) control of the governmental apparatus. What's different is that this time it was done with the eager consent of a growing majority of the white population.

In the past, the Republicans have controlled the Presidency. Since

Dwight Eisenhower was elected in 1952, they have controlled seven of the last 11 presidential elections. As a result, the Supreme Court (and the Judicial branch in general) is dominated by more conservative appointees. Chief Justice William Rehnquist was first appointed to the Court by Richard Nixon in 1972. The only other "aging" veteran of the Court—Justice John Paul Stevens—was appointed, ironically by Republican Gerald Ford in 1975.

The Court got its present face during the Reagan-Bush years, with Ronald Reagan replacing retiring Chief Justice Warren Burger in 1986 with Mr. Rehnquist, naming two other solid conservatives—Sandra Day O'Connor and Antonin Scalia—and naming the Court's "swing vote," Anthony M. Kennedy. George Bush completed the solid conservative majority appointing David H. Souter and Clarence Thomas.

All of this points to how important winning the presidency has become if there is to be any liberal-conservative balance of power entering the 21st Century. With the most conservative elements of the GOP already controlling both Houses of Congress, supported by a narrow, but solid, majority of conservative Republicans on the Supreme Court, the Constitution's idea of governmental "checks and balances," will be upset for an entire generation, if one of the front-running GOP presidential candidates—Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) and Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX)—moves into the White House in 1997.

First, there will be nothing to stem the right-wing legislative onslaught, no sober judicial review from the Supreme Court. Talk about a "white backlash" or the revenge of the "angry white male."

The Democratic party as well as progressive leaders must come back from their ego trips and really put in their thinking caps if they are to be "relevant" in the American future. The Great Society agenda of the 1960s has already been lost, and will soon

be gutted. Besides, the money to pay for everything, except interest on the national debt it seems, has already been redistributed to the wealthy by the wealthy barons who have controlled the political apparatus all along.

As objectionable as it seems on first inspection, President Clinton's strategy of drifting to the political right may be the best thing the Democrats have going in 1996. As a result of his rightward shift, Mr. Clinton can be condemned by blacks and by liberals in his own party. That makes him that much more attractive to "middle-of-the-road" white conservatives. That increases his electability. The Republic is thereby saved from the Ginchigh-Who-Stole-Christmas.

The brutal reality is, that with, or without Mr. Clinton, the conservative agenda is going to have its season in this country, very soon. What African Americans need to do is organize to lead themselves, and other like-minded people into the new "leaner and meaner" America produced by the very discerning contractors, and no longer simply as gluttonous consumers.

KID CALENDAR

ATTENTION:
JERSEY CITY—Registration for the "Readers of the Round Table" club at the Jersey City Public Library thru July 14. For more info call your nearest local branch.

PLAINFIELD—On site registration for the Plainfield Division of Recreation summer programs. For more info call 908-757-9109.

PATERSON—Summer Vacation Reading Club at the Paterson Free Public Library thru August 24. For more info call 201-357-3002.

ELIZABETH—1995 TEEN ARTS Touring Exhibit thru July 7 in the Union County Administration Building, 6th fl. For more info call 908-558-2550 or 1-800-852-7899.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
NEW YORK—Schoolhouse Rock Live! at The Atlantic Theater. For more info call 212-239-6200.

JUNE 22, 29
PLAINFIELD—Children's Film Program at 3:30 p.m. at Plainfield Public Library. For more info call 908-757-1111.

JUNE 25, 28
NORTH BRANCH—Mystery! Who Stole The Hat? at Raritan Valley Community College at 2 p.m. For more info call 908-231-8805.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30
PLAINFIELD—A visit from the Scotch Plains Zoo at 2 p.m. at Plainfield Public Library. For more info call 908-757-1111.

JULY 1, 2
NEW YORK—Design an Independence Day Flag at the Children's Museum of the Arts. For more info call 212-941-9198.

SATURDAY, JULY 2
VCR ALERT—Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* airs on TNT.

JULY 5, 6
SUMMIT—Hands-on art activities for children ages 2-5, and their adult companions (painting, printing, puppets, masks and more) at the NJ Center for Visual Arts. For more info call 908-275-9121.

THURSDAY, JULY 13
METCHEN—"Snow White" (play) at the Forum Theater at 10 a.m. For more info call 908-548-0582.

TUESDAY, JULY 19
METCHEN—"The Wizard of Oz" (play) at the Forum Theater at 10 a.m. For more info call 908-548-0582.

AKA scholarship awards

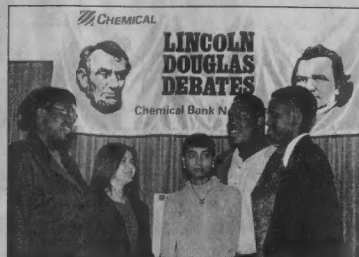


AKA scholarship recipients: Tonye Briggs (not pictured), (l-r) Christine Taylor, Linda Smith, Shi-Kia Carter, Temitope Songunua, Lyahisha Gonzalez, Ayisha Baldwin, Stefanie Sancho, and Dana Brown.

PLAINFIELD—Theta Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. recently held a scholarship tea at the Plainfield Public Library to award young women for their exceptional academic achievements.

Scholarships were awarded to students from Plainfield, North Plainfield, Scotch Plains, Westfield, Edison, Rahway and Piscataway were fed along with their parents.

Science High students reach quarter-finals in Lincoln-Douglas Debates



Pictured (l to r) are Science High School debaters Naimah Myhand, sophomore (alternate); Amethyst Cuaycong, junior; Nadir D. Balkaran, senior; Jonathan Alston, coach; and Nadir Joshua, freshman.

EAST BRUNSWICK—After months of preparation and a grueling day-long series of preliminary rounds, Science High School students reached the quarter-finals of the fourth annual Chemical Bank New Jersey Lincoln-Douglas Debates competition.

Nearly 150 students from 45 New Jersey public high schools participated in the initial debates, which were

held recently at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Science High School's team, Amethyst Cuaycong, Nadir D. Balkaran, Nadir Joshua, and Naimah Myhand (alternate), was defeated by River Dell Regional High School in the experienced tier of the quarter-finals.

For reaching the quarter-finals, Science High School students will

each receive a \$100 savings bonds. Schools that went on to win the finals were awarded \$250 and the silver "Them Cup" trophy, while each team member received \$500 and a Lincoln-Douglas Debates jacket.

Inspired by the famous 1858 Illinois senate debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas, Chemical Bank created the high school debate program in 1992 to enhance students' communication, research and analytical skills. Unlike the usual one-on-one debate format, each school fields a team of three in either the experienced or inexperienced tier, allowing more students to participate.

"Debating builds research, communication and problem-solving skills that are essential for today's students and tomorrow's work force," said Chemical's Edward McCabe, senior vice president and director, Human Resources. "These skills will enable our future leaders to pursue careers and not just jobs."

The annual Chemical Lincoln-Douglas Debate competition is open to public high schools statewide and is free to enter. An informational video on the program is available by calling Eugenie Coladara at 908-220-3330.

Dorcas Montell to perform in recital concert

NEWARK—The Newark Community School of the Arts (NCSA) has launched a new Student Recital Series which will feature seventeen-year-old Dorcas Montell, a piano and voice student.

Montell will perform piano works by Mozart, Chopin, Bach and Prokofiev. Her vocal performance will include compositions by Handel, Mozart and Schubert.

The first recital is scheduled for Sunday, June 25 at 3 p.m. in the Gallery of the Hazell Center at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark.

She has been a student at the NCSA since she was eleven years old. In 1993 and 1994, she competed in the Hispanic Youth Showcase

where she won the Teen Vocal category and the Teen Instrumental (piano) category, respectively.

She also competed in EXPO 1994 where she made it to the finals in the piano category. This year she entered the National Association of Singing Teachers competition held in Princeton as well as the Queens College Young Artists Competition in New York.

In the summer of 1993, Montell was awarded a scholarship to study piano at Kinnhaven Music Camp in Vermont. Over the years, she has been awarded scholarships by Senator Wynona Lipman and Congressman Robert Menendez to pursue her art at NCSA. For more information about the recital call 201-642-0133.

Pocahontas bilingual read-along book released



Walt Disney has released a bilingual read-along from *Pocahontas*. The read-along relives the fun and adventure of the film with a lavishly illustrated 48-page book (24 pages in English, 24 in Spanish) along with a cassette tape featuring character voices, sound effects and music from the film.

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RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JUNE 24
NEWARK—"An Evening of Songs" gospel choir at First Baptist Church at 4 p.m. For more info call 201-465-8100.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25
NEWARK—"New Jersey Gospel Parade of Stars" at 3 p.m. Weequeah Park. For more info call 201-733-6454.

HEALTH CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
BELLE MEAD—Everything you wanted to know about psychiatric medications at the Carner Foundation at 6:45 p.m. For more info call 908-281-1516.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22
NEWARK—Repetitive Stress Injuries: hand & wrist at 1 p.m. at UMDNJ. To register call 201-982-2000 or 1-800-852-DOCS.

IRVINGTON—Community High Blood Pressure Control Program, sponsored by the Dept. of Health's Nursing Division, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-399-6652.

PLAINFIELD—Muhlenberg Hospital Step Recovery Program at 10:30 a.m. at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center. For more info call 908-753-3506.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27
PLAINFIELD—Heart Disease at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center at 10:30 a.m. For more info call 908-753-3506.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29
NEWARK—Repetitive Stress Injuries: elbow to shoulder at 1 p.m. at UMDNJ. To register call 201-982-2000 or 1-800-852-DOCS.

Black mayors

Continued from page 3

1985.

The National Conference of Black Mayors was founded in 1974 by Atty. A. J. Cooper, then the mayor of Pritchard, Ala. at a time when there were about 80 African-American mayors nationwide. A few weeks ago, Ron Kirk was elected the first black mayor of Dallas, Tex., bringing the total number of black mayors in the U.S. to 382.

Po identifies top community concerns

NEWARK—In a recent poll conducted by SHARE, approximately 700 volunteers of the New Jersey chapter have identified "elder care" and "drugs" as the top most important issues in their 300 communities. However, rather than just identifying the problems, an overwhelming majority of 73 percent said they would be willing to be part of a solution by using their volunteer time to address these issues.

"These findings tell us two important things: what people see as their most pressing local issues and that they are not just looking to government for answers but are willing to help," said Andy Morikawa, president of San Diego-based World SHARE.

The local findings that Morikawa spotlighted were drawn from a sam-

pling of SHARE New Jersey's 8,000 volunteers working in both Maryland and West Virginia. Following close behind "elder care" and "drugs," respondents ranked "youth problems" and "violent crime" as their third and fourth top concerns, respectively.

The survey is part of a national Community Assessment being undertaken by World SHARE, a 12-year-old, non-profit with a network of 400,000 volunteers in 33 states. "SHARE volunteers know firsthand the difference volunteers can make in their communities, since that's what we've been encouraging since 1983," Morikawa said. "SHARE volunteers rehab schools, ball fields, coach and teach, contributing whatever they can as individuals or part of a group," Morikawa added.

PSE&G launches new heating and cooling device

NEWARK—PSE&G has discovered a more efficient way for consumers to heat and cool their homes. The process can be done by using a heat pump, which moves heat against its natural flow, extracting heat from colder outside air and moving it into the home.

Instead of creating heat, heat pumps extract and transfer existing heat. Because it takes less energy to do this, heat pumps can be a more cost effective way to heat a home compared to conventional heating. Used in an appropriate setting, heat pumps can provide twice the heat for the amount of energy used.

Heat pumps were first invented in the 1930's. Today the most popular type of electric heat pump is the air-to-air heat pump. The pumps can also access heat from water or from the earth. Working like air conditioners, they extract heat from one area and transfer it to another.

Heat can be extracted from the outside air, even when the outdoor temperature is 0 degrees Fahrenheit. At 0 degrees Fahrenheit the air contains nearly 90 percent of the heat it contains at 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Conversely, heat pumps work in the summer too by removing heat from the indoor air and transporting it outside.

In mild climates, installing a heat pump in a home normally heated by conventional electric heating can reduce electric bills by 35 to 45 percent. To determine whether a heat pump is an economical choice for you, there are a number of things to consider:

Heat pumps are most economical when they can be used for both winter heating and summer cooling. To get the maximum use from a heat pump you will need to remove your existing furnace and air conditioning equipment. If your existing heating and cooling equipment is in good working order, then a heat pump may not be a good idea.

A heat pump is most economical in climates where the average winter temperature is above 25 degrees Fahrenheit. The more frequent the need for a back-up heating system, the less economical it is to have a heat pump.

For call 800-428-2525, or the PSE&G Conservation Center at 800-854-4444, 24 hours a day.

March of Dimes celebrates fatherhood

PINE BROOK—Many males think that a man's contribution to making babies begins and ends at the moment of conception, but there is increasing evidence that suggests fathers-to-be have a larger impact on the health and birth of the unborn baby.

For the third consecutive year, the North Jersey Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation is launching its "Men Have Babies Too" Father's Day health education campaign. The campaign breaks with the traditional view of pregnancy as solely of the woman's responsibility and focuses attention on the man's role in the health of his pregnant partner and

her baby. Fathers and fathers-to-be from throughout North Jersey can call the March of Dimes to obtain two educational brochures, *Men Have Babies Too: A Guide For Fathers-to-be* and *Dad, It's Your Baby Too*. The materials offer tips to men on positive steps they can take to help their partners have a healthy baby.

The brochures answer questions that men commonly ask, such as: "How can I feel more connected, more of a partner in the birth process?" The materials can also be obtained as part of a pre-pregnancy planning packet called Think Ahead,

which was launched by the March of Dimes in January.

"Fathers-to-be are taking a more active and supportive role in their partner's pregnancy," said Matthew Rohrer, a resident of Long Valley and chairman of the March of Dimes North Jersey Chapter. Rohrer became a father of a healthy baby for the second time during May. "Fathers and fathers-to-be can be a positive influence on their partners during pregnancy and on the subsequent health of their babies," he added.

To obtain copies of the brochures call the March of Dimes North Jersey Chapter at 201-852-0700.

Muhlenberg school of nursing receives full re-accreditation

PLAINFIELD—Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center School of Nursing, observing its 101st anniversary in 1995, has received full re-accreditation from the National League For Nursing.

The school also received special commendations for its faculty's education level and research and for its high student passing rate on state board examinations.

"Muhlenberg nursing graduates have a 99.8 percent passing rate on the state test, a figure that speaks well of the relevancy and success of our curriculum," dean of the nursing school Judith Mathews observed.

The staff and faculty received praise from the evaluation team for their varied research efforts to track the effectiveness of the program. Continuing surveys record such information as the employment rate of the school's graduates in the nursing field, the factors that influence high school students to pursue nursing and the correlation between the pre-admission examination scores of new students and their passing rate.

The School of Nursing offers an Associate in Science degree from Union County College and a Diploma of Nursing from Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

The re-accreditation process, which is required every eight years, recently culminated with a four-day visit from the evaluation team. The team studied not only classroom work and the results of the extensive, 18-month-long self-study conducted by the school, but also toured the hospital to see firsthand the clinical involvement of the students.

The school is accepting applications now for the spring 1996 semester, which begins in January 1996. The application deadline is September 1. For additional information about the program and the application process call 908-668-2400.

Use your heads, wear helmets

FLORHAM PARK—If it seems that there are more bicycle accidents on the road today, it's because there are! According to the New Jersey Automobile Club Foundation for Safety & Education, biking is fast becoming one of our favorite pastimes and May is National Bike Safety Month.

An estimated 66.9 million bicyclists annually ride a total of 15 billion miles in the United States, according to a recent survey directed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

"Biking provides cheap, environmentally sound transportation for many people not to mention its cardiovascular benefits," stated Paul Kiebelick, AAA safety manager. "But there's a downside. Bicyclists are exposed to the weather and have a greater chance of death or serious injury in a crash as compared to drivers of vehicles."

In 1992, almost 650,000 bicyclists were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries. Of those injured, 75,816 had head injuries. Yet, head injuries are among the

most preventable. Bicycle helmets can reduce head injuries by 85 percent. All it takes is a helmet that fits properly and complies with the standards of the Snell Foundation or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The estimated costs of bicycle-related injuries and deaths to society are about \$8 billion annually—and suggest that injury-reduction strategies with even modest levels of effectiveness could prove to be cost efficient.

Exclusions

Continued from page 4

nouncement of her cultural diversity program and by the extremely low number of Latino appointments to her administration;

Governor Whitman's gross insensitivity and thoughtlessness in recently passing on to the media a degrading and totally unfounded rumor about the sexual and reproductive habits of young African-American males;

Republican Congressional leader Dick Armey's tasteless "slip-of-the-tongue" in talking to a reporter several months ago about his congressional colleague, Barney Frank, a Texas, referred to the Massachusetts Democrat, an admitted homosexual, as "Barney Fag";

In similar fashion more recently, California Republican Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham's reference to "homos in the military" during congressional debate;

Ed Rollins' return last month to the Republicans' hall of shame with a public statement in California about "Hymie boys," angering several local and national Jewish organizations in the process—proving you can't really please a true bigot;

Making it perfectly clear whom he wishes his politics to include, right wing Republican presidential candidate Pat Buchanan's introduction of himself to campaign audiences as an "unemployed angry white male;"

Only a little less obvious than Buchanan, and not nearly as verbal, is California Republican Governor Pete Wilson's recent executive order eliminating all aspects of affirmative action in his state's government (and some wonder if Wilson's soul-mate, Governor Whitman, intends to soon do the same in New Jersey).

Add to the above the random racist verbal shots from Republican Senators Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond and prominent members of the Republican religious right, as well as the occasional racist invective code words and terms, like "midnight basketball," coined by Republican legislators in the House last year, and it becomes clear that the GOP is well on the way to setting a record in what one commentator refers to as the "blatant bloopers of bigotry."

More than thirty years ago Malcolm X, in predicting that time was a way of exciting the score, said that "chickens eventually come home to roost." Hopefully, this will happen for the Republican Party nationally in November 1996 and in New Jersey exactly one year later.

Bleak

Continued from page 4

number of minorities in college. Graduates are going to find the opportunity to further their education being threatened.

Even worse, those not going to college are going to find the job market very slim. The economy is slowing down and jobs are more technical and require training. It will be very difficult for persons without training to get a job. Even more precarious is the fact that in today's environment there is such a thing as job security. Businesses and companies are cutting back, laying off and the government is privatizing. Many jobs in terms of salary do not provide enough to take care of a single person, let alone a family. The job market for many of the high school graduates is bleak.

The graduates have achieved a milestone they should celebrate and enjoy, but the future is uncertain. It is our hope and prayer that their future will be bright. Even more, may we suggest to them that they use what they learned in the classroom, but also learn a lesson from their grandparents and ancestors who had to face difficult times with opportunity. Hopefully they can learn from their wisdom and do as they did, rise above their circumstances.

Congratulations and best wishes.

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News Continued from page 3

of crimes for which a person can be put to death. South Africa last week abolished the death penalty after declaring it cruel and unusual punishment. The decision by the South African high court had been expected for some time. Nelson Mandela, the country's first black president, had long been critical of the death penalty, saying among other things that it was used disproportionately against blacks.

—SOUTH AFRICA

BLACK PRESS ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Dorothy R. Leavell, publisher of the Chicago and Gary (IN) Crusader newspapers, has been elected to a two-year term to head the 200-member National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), also known as the Black Press of America. Ms. Leavell, who has headed her newspaper operations, has

served as the organization's treasurer for over 10 years. She vows to heighten the visibility, revenues and circulation of NNPA newspapers. The group's publication have a combined circulation of six million weekly.

Adarand

Continued from page 8

gains that have been made in addressing this country's subjugation of its minority population by law will not solve the frustrations of the non-minority electorate, and they will soon realize that the frustrations that have manifested themselves in anti-affirmative action, anti-immigrant and isolationist public policy, will not do away with so called "quotas," but only serve to take us back to the times when racial quotas meant "Whites Only."

Courtesy M. Billups, Esquire is president of Billups & Associates, a small business management consulting firm and full service law firm which specializes in small business development.

Enter your ugly couch in the Sure Fit contest

NEW YORK—Do you have a couch that is so ugly you can't stand it anymore, like the one on the *Mike & Marty Show*? Well, the Sure Fit division of Fieldcrest Cannon is making an offer you won't want to refuse. Send in a color photo and written explanation of why you'd like to cover your old, worn, torn, stained or just plain ugly couch, and you will be entered into their first Ugly Couch Contest! (No purchase necessary).

First place winner will receive a brand new sofa of his or her choice worth up to \$2000. There are dozens of runner up prizes featuring Fieldcrest Cannon Sure Fit Slipcovers and accessories.

Sure Fit will make a donation to Furnish a Future and Help, two organizations that provide for the homeless. All entries must be received by June 30, 1995. Winners will be notified by mail and by phone.

Send your entry to: Leo Barry, Sure Fit, 58 W. 40th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018.

As I See It

Continued from page 4

the worker who does not have a command of the new technology is an endangered species.

The day is at hand when community colleges can no longer afford the luxury of teaching students basics they should have learned before and during high school. If we think unemployment is high now among African Americans, unless we insist that schools teach our children, jobs for them in the future will be totally non-existent. Is that what we really want? It is definitely something young black people do not need.

Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz and his staff may not be the most popular of educators when they come into Newark but then change is often met with hostility.

They also should not be expected to perform miracles with a school system mired in mediocrity for so many years few believe it can be truly turned around.

But the state must persevere in a campaign to Save the Children and those who recognize a "mind is a terrible thing to waste" must be willing to stand up and be counted for the children who are tomorrow's adults.

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Commissioner

AN OPEN LETTER FROM NEW JERSEY COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION LEO KLAGHOLZ TO THE NEWARK COMMUNITY:

June 19, 1995

Dear Newark Resident:

I recommended recently that the Newark school system should become a "State-operated" school district. As Commissioner of Education, it is my responsibility to ensure that every child in the state of New Jersey receives a "thorough and efficient" education. Under the school district's current leadership, your city's children have not received this kind of education.

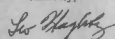
If the State Board of Education approves my recommendation, the state of New Jersey will take direct responsibility for improving the quality of Newark's schools. The State Board's approval would lead to the replacement of some of the district's top leaders, as well as the Newark Board of Education.

I want to assure you that my purpose is not to engineer a "state takeover" of control of the schools from the citizens of Newark. Instead, I want to create a partnership between the Newark community and the state. As school reformers all around the country have learned, schools cannot be improved without the active support and involvement of teachers, parents and community members. Your participation in the process of improving Newark's schools is crucial; success cannot be achieved without it.

If my recommendation to create a State-operated school district in Newark is approved, I will be depending on your input and support to help build an effective partnership for improving education. Even before that happens, I want to hear your concerns about the Newark schools. In order to maintain an open line of communication with Newark residents, the Department of Education has established a toll free information line. Please do not hesitate to call 1-800-204-3292 with your questions, comments or ideas.

I look forward to working with you to improve the Newark public schools.

Sincerely,



Leo Klagholz
Commissioner

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Learning to read... helping with school lessons... visiting a museum... just fun at summer camp.

That's what PSE&G's Community Partners for Youth program is all about; providing support to help groups in your community to work together to improve the lives of our children, now, and in the future.

Every year, we bring together selected groups in your community and help them to develop joint programs that are meaningful and that really work. We're proud of what you've accomplished.

To us, the power of youth is indeed a precious resource.

The power is in your hands.



Sometimes, Growing Up Takes A Little Help.

